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PTO/SB/30 (08-03)

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**Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**

Address to:
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

<i>Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal</i>	<i>Application Number</i>	09/897,315
	<i>Confirmation No.</i>	1737
	<i>Filing Date</i>	July 2, 2001
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Brent Kevin Larson
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	1714
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	Katarzyna I. Wyrozebski Lee
	<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	DN2001138X01

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
 - a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - ii. Other _____
 - b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other _____ Request for Extension of Time for 3 Months
2. **Miscellaneous**
 - a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
 - b. Other _____
3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.
 - a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 07-1725.
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) in the amount of \$770.00
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other _____
 - b. Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
 - c. Payment by credit card (form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

<i>Name (Print/Type)</i>	<i>Henry C. Young, Jr.</i>	<i>Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)</i>	22,319
<i>Signature</i>	<i>Henry C. Young</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>2/27/04</i>

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

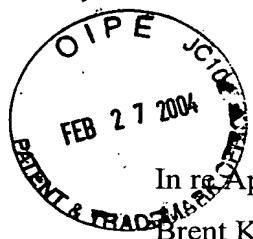
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<i>Name (Print/Type)</i>	<i>Stacy J. Sidle</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Feb. 27, 2004</i>
<i>Signature</i>	<i>Stacy J. Sidle</i>		

This collection of information is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. §122 and 37 C.F.R. §1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETE FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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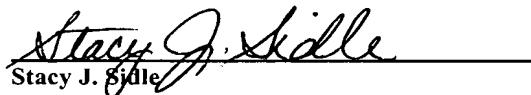
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Confirmation No.: 1737
Brent Kevin Larson) Docket No.: DN2001138X01
For: ELASTOMER COMPOSITION WHICH) Art Unit: 1714
CONTAINS INTERCALATED AND) Examiner: Katarzyna I. Wyrozebski Lee
EXFOLIATED CLAY REINFORCEMENT)
FORMED IN SITU WITHIN THE)
ELASTOMER HOST AND ARTICLE, SUCH)
AS A TIRE, HAVING AT LEAST ONE)
COMPONENT THEREOF)
Serial No.: 09/897,315)
Filed: July 2, 2001

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Stacy J. Sidle

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the calculation and examination of the application, please enter the present Amendment which is provided in this continuation application to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the Applicants' invention.

In response to the Examiner's Advisory Action dated December 18, 2003, Paper No. 8, concerning the Applicant's response to the Examiner's Final Rejection received by the Patent Office on November 20, 2003, this Continuation is presented.

The Examiner has indicated in her Advisory Action that the Applicants' proposed Amendment would not be entered for purposes of Appeal because it raises new issues that require further consideration